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W. C. LINDSAY

1,959,725

FOLDING TABLE

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Fig. 1.

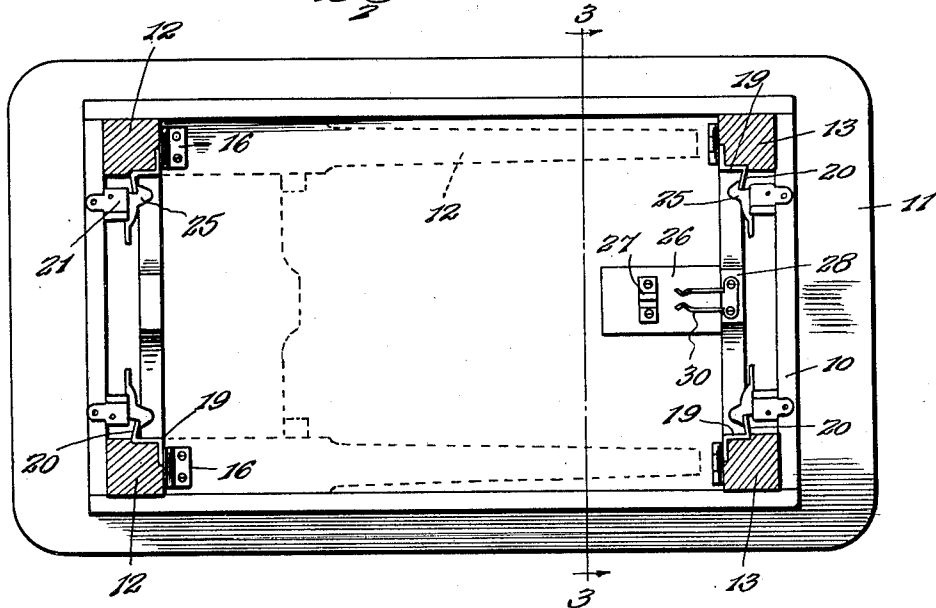


Fig. 2.

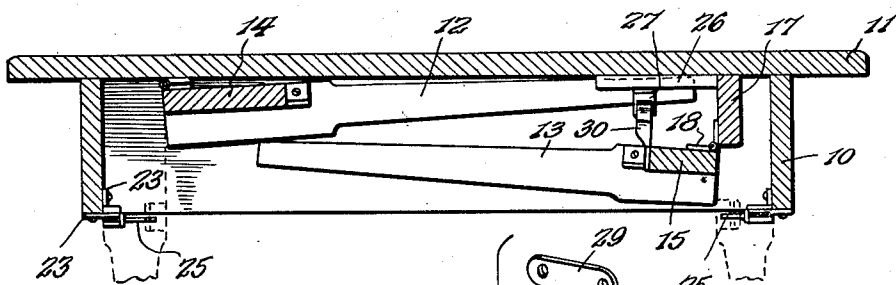


Fig. 4.

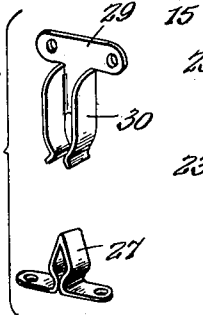


Fig. 5.

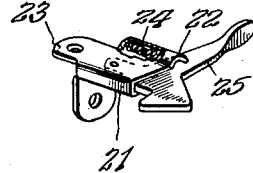
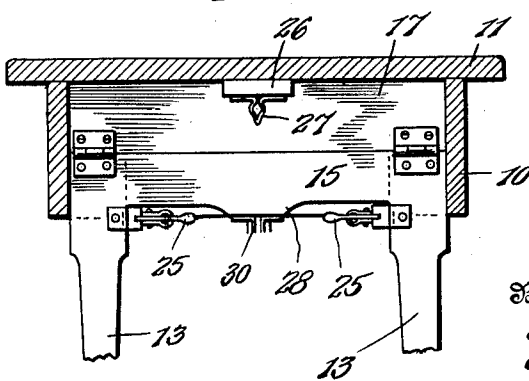


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FOLDING TABLE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 45—11)

This invention relates to an improved folding table and seeks, among other objects, to provide a table of a simple and inexpensive construction which may be readily set up and as easily taken down.

The invention seeks, as a further object, to provide a table which will be entirely sturdy when set up while, nevertheless, the table may be compactly folded.

And the invention seeks, as a still further object, to provide a table which may be manufactured in almost any preferred shape or design and wherein, when the legs are folded, the legs will be secured in folded position so that the table may be easily handled.

Other and incidental objects of the invention, not specifically mentioned in the foregoing, will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a bottom plan view of my improved table, the legs being shown in section,

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view through the table,

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 1,

Figure 4 is a detail perspective view showing the parts of the friction latch employed for securing the legs in folded position, and

Figure 5 is a detail perspective view showing one of the elbow catches employed for securing the legs in extended position.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, it will be seen that I have shown the present improvements embodied in a table of oblong shape, but the invention is equally applicable to tables of various other shapes.

In carrying the invention into effect, I employ an oblong frame 10 comprising side and end rails appropriately secured together at their ends, and fixed to the frame is a table top 11. Swingingly connected with the table top, near the ends of the frame, are pairs of legs, which, for convenience, are indicated at 12 and 13, and rigidly connecting the legs of the respective pairs of legs are cross bars 14 and 15, respectively. The legs may be of any preferred shape but, as shown in the drawing, are preferably square in cross section at their upper terminals, the cross bars 14 and 15 being countersunk in said terminals. Connecting the cross bar 14 of the pair of legs 12 with the table top are hinges 16 and supporting the pair of legs 13 is a cross strip 17 fixed to the side rails of the frame 10 and to the table top near the adjacent end rail of the frame, the

cross bar 15 of the pair of legs 13 being connected to said strip by hinges 18.

As will now be observed upon reference to Figure 2, the pair of legs 12 may be swung upwardly within the frame 10 to lie within the lines of the cross strip 17 so that the pair of legs 13 may be subsequently swung up within the lines of said frame to overlie the pair of legs 12. In any instance where a table is of such length that the pairs of legs would not overlap each other when folded, the cross strip 17 may be eliminated and the cross bar of the pair of legs 13 connected directly to the table top.

As shown in Figure 1, the pairs of legs 12 and 13 are so mounted that when said pairs of legs are swung downwardly to extended position, the square upper terminals of said legs fit snugly in the corners of the frame 10. Rigidity of the table is thus enhanced. Fixed to the confronting corners of the legs are Z-shaped plates 19 fitting said corners and screwed or otherwise fixed thereto. Preferably, the plates 19 are countersunk and the free ends thereof which project toward each other between the legs are bent inwardly to provide inclined terminals 20. Mounted upon the end rails of the frame 10 to coact with said terminals are pairs of spring-pressed elbow catches, one of which is shown in detail in Figure 5. As will be observed, each of these catches includes a channel shaped sheet metal casing 21, the side walls of which are bowed at their free ends to provide mating portions of a barrel 22 and formed on the inner extremities of said side walls are angularly disposed ears 23. The barrel 22 accommodates a spring 24 and pivoted between the side walls of the casing is an angle shaped catch member 25, the handle of which is accommodated between the bowed portions of the barrel and is engaged by the spring member forwardly.

As best seen in Figure 2, the catches are secured to the lower edges of the end rails of the frame 10, the ears 23 fitting the lower inner angles of said rails so that corresponding ears are screwed to the inner faces of the rails while the opposite corresponding ears are screwed to the lower edges of the rails. The catches are thus rigidly supported to extend inwardly in a plane with the lower perimeter of the frame 10, and, as shown in Figure 1, the catch members 25 are presented outwardly to engage over the terminals 20 of the plates 19 for rigidly locking the legs in extended position. Thus, when the legs are extended, wobbling of the table will be pre-

vented while also, possibility of accidental col-
 lapse of the table will be obviated, and, in this
 connection, it should be observed that the heads
 of the catch members 25 are beveled so that when
 5 the legs are swung downwardly to extended position,
 the inclined terminals 20 of the plates 19
 will coact with said edges for rocking the catch
 members rearwardly so that said terminals will
 readily ride into engagement with the catch
 10 members. Locking of the legs when swung to
 extended position will thus be automatic.

Fixed to the table top, adjacent the strip 17,
 is a block 26 and secured at its ends to said block
 is a substantially triangular shaped head 27. As
 15 best seen in Figure 3, the cross bar 15 of the pair
 of legs 13 is provided medially with an extension
 28 and fixed to said extension to project laterally
 therefrom is a friction latch 29 embodying a
 clip on which is formed a pair of spring tongues 30
 20 disposed to coact with the head 27. Thus, after
 the pair of legs 12 have been folded to inactive
 position, the pair of legs 13 are swung upwardly
 to overlie the pair of legs 12 when the tongues 30
 will ride over the head 27 to engage behind the
 25 shoulders thereof for securing the latter pair of
 legs folded and consequently also securing the
 pair of legs 12 in folded position. Accordingly,
 the table, when folded, may be conveniently
 handled without liability of dislocating the folded
 30 legs.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:
 1. A folding table including a frame, a top

carried thereby, a pair of legs hingedly connected
 to the table top at one end of the frame, a trans-
 verse strip secured to the underside of the top
 adjacent the opposite end of the frame, a second
 80 pair of legs hingedly connected to said strip, the
 pairs of legs being movable to extended position
 projecting from the frame and to folded position
 within the frame with the last mentioned
 legs below the first mentioned legs, means for
 85 locking the legs in extended position, and means
 for frictionally locking the lower pair of legs in
 folded position.

2. Means for securing hinged table legs in col-
 lapsed position within a table frame, said means
 including a pendent head carried by the table
 frame and having expanded sides, and a clip
 carried by the legs and including spaced spring
 tongues arranged to ride on and grasp said head.

3. Means for securing hinged table legs in pro-
 95 jected position to support a table frame, said
 means including projections on the opposed sides
 of the legs inclined toward the center of the
 table frame, brackets secured to the table frame
 substantially in a plane with the lower perimeter
 of said frame, barrels on said brackets, latches
 100 pivoted on said brackets in position to engage the
 projections on the legs, and springs in the barrels
 bearing upon the latches to hold them to the
 projections.

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